

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledge receipt of the office action dated January 5, 2005, in which the Examiner required that the Applicant elect a species for prosecution.¹

Applicant elects Species A, which is illustrated in Figure 1 and covered by claims 1, 4-9, 11-17, 19-22 and 53. Claim 1 has been amended to further require that the box be coated with a fire-retardant intumescent coating and claims 10 and 18, which formerly contained this limitation, have been canceled. Applicant submits that dependent claims 6 and 53 can remain pending in the present application as they depend from independent/generic claim 1.

Claims 23-52 have been withdrawn as relating to an unelected species.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims that can be corrected by telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Applicant respectfully submits that the citation of PCT Rule 13.1 is inappropriate in this case, as the present application is not a U.S. national stage entry. For the same reason, the unity of invention standard is not correctly applied. Nonetheless, Applicant assumes that Examiner intended to enter a conventional election-of-species or restriction requirement and Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.